

Item no.

Report to: **Development Control and Regulatory Panel**

Date: **24 February 2009**

Report of: **Head of Planning and Building Control Services**

Subject: **Application for S.106 Funding: Purchase of additional cricket equipment, Castle Eden Cricket Club, Castle Eden**

Ward: **Hutton Henry Ward**

The Application Site

The Cricket Club lies off the B1281 road. The club is a community club with links to local schools and youth organisations. As part of the current club development plan they are looking to improve the practice facilities for their club members but more specifically for the junior players. The club is currently involved in the Chance to Shine Programme working in local schools to develop cricket and strengthen school/club links. The Chance to Shine programme is the Cricket Foundation's drive to regenerate competitive cricket in state schools and is the single biggest school-sport development initiative ever undertaken in Britain. In the initial 10-year period the scheme aims to create a sustainable cricket culture within a third of all state schools across England and Wales.

The Proposed Development

The Cricket Club are looking to purchase two mobile batting cages which will offer more opportunities for young players within the community to practice and develop their batting techniques in a safe and enjoyable environment. Castle Eden Cricket Club has already raised enough money to provide two flexi pitches however need to secure funding to purchase the two batting cages.

Site History

Castle Eden Cricket Club is aiming to encourage increased use of the facilities by creating a substantial local asset that will improve leisure provision in the area. It aims to provide younger people with more opportunities to participate and practice their cricket skills.

Planning Policy

The Section 106 funding has been acquired through compliance with Policy 66 of the District of Easington Local Plan, which requires provision of children's play space on housing developments of ten or more dwellings, or a financial contribution as an alternative.

Consultations and Publicity

Not Applicable

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Planning Consideration and Assessment

Background

Planning permission was originally granted for a residential development in Castle Eden that included an equipped play area. Following representations from the residents planning permission was subsequently granted for the omission of the play area, with the developer offering the sum of £45,000 as compensation for this. The funding was secured through a legal agreement made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The aim of this arrangement was to fund the enhancement/provision of recreational community/leisure facilities within Castle Eden.

At present the Council has received £45,000 from the developer. Members will recall recently approving a scheme in November 2008 to upgrade the Community Centre within the village at a cost of £4,675.65. On this occasion the Cricket Club request to utilise only a small proportion of the remaining available funds meaning if approved there will still be £37,104.35 left to spend within the area. It is understood that Castle Eden Parish Council will shortly be submitting a scheme to improve facilities at the community centre which would utilise the remaining funding.

Two letters have been received in support of the funding request. One is from the Community Coach at Durham Cricket Board who is a Chance to Shine Co-ordinator. Together with Castle Eden Cricket Club he works alongside eight local schools within the District. He believes the programme has allowed the surrounding community more opportunity to become involved in the club. The other letter has been received from a Senior Sports Development Officer at Easington District Council. He along with the Sports Development Team has forged a strong working partnership with Club over the past five years. Several District cricket festivals have been held which has allowed hundreds of local primary school children to put their recently acquired skills to the challenge. Both supporters of the project see the funding request as a chance to strengthen the current good work undertaken as part of the Chance to Shine Programme.

The Proposal

The Cricket Club feel it is important to improve facilities at the club in order to encourage junior players to participate in the sport. This will also help the club to continue their involvement in the Chance to Shine Programme.

The budgets for these works are given as;

Mobile batting cages	2 x	£	1,610.00
Final Total		£	3,220.00

A request has been received from Castle Eden Cricket Club for the above sum to cover the cost of two mobile batting cages to be met from the Section 106 monies currently held for their use.

Each Agreement is individual to the site and specifies the type and the location of development which would be suitable under its terms. As highlighted the District of Easington is in receipt of all of the Section 106 monies secured for Castle Eden. The current proposal is considered to accord with the terms as laid out in the Agreement.

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Conclusion

It is considered that the new equipment will encourage greater usage of an important local facility. It is further considered that the proposal is in accordance with the specific requirements for the release of Section 106 monies, which are identified as being made to help towards the cost of the enhancement/provision of recreational community/leisure facilities within Castle Eden. Accordingly the request for funding to help improve local facilities within Castle Eden is considered reasonable and should be supported.

Recommendation

That the Panel agrees to the release of the sum of £3,220 from the Section 106 Agreement monies to fund the purchase of additional equipment at Castle Eden Cricket Club.

Background Papers

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report.

Section 106 Register

Letters from Castle Eden Cricket Club

Letters from Durham Cricket Board

Letters from Sports Development Officer at Easington District Council

District of Easington Local Plan